

*John Gray Blount to Richard Lake*⁵⁹Washington March 3.rd 1796M.^r Richard LakeSir⁶⁰

Inclosed you have a Bill Lading for Sixty Six thousand of Boards and fifty thousand twenty two Inch Shingles shipped by us on the Ship North Carolina Cap.^t Hudgin all which you will please to sell to best advantage [2] on our account, and remitt the nett proceeds by the Same Vessell to M.^r Peter Schermerhorn Merchant New York unless the produce of your Island should have fallen at least 20 per Cent-since the first of Feb^y last. If either Rum or Sugar of a good Quality has fallen that much you will please remit in both or either of them articles as you may have reason to believe will best answer our purpose

If the Ship should not proceed to New York please pay the nett proceeds to Cap.^t Gorham of our Brig Tuley should he have not left there and if he has left there then ship the money as before directed by some safe Vessell

We have observed a charge of 5 per C.^t in some accounts handed from your place for remitting the money . . no such charge has appeared in yours for handing the money to our Captains, Should it be the Custom of the place and you mean to pursue the Custom and Charge for remitting money, you will to save that expense please hand the Cash — with your account to Cap.^t Gorham as before [3] directed if there, and if not hand the same to Cap.^t Hudgin[;] we will risque him without the formality of a Bill Lading and for that we have experinced that you do not charge

We shall be much pleased to hear what we have no doubts of, which is that the ship may be dispatched to satisfaction.

Mess.^{rs} Balentine & Fairley have heretofore done the business of her owners at your place, but we had her on charter to bring a load to your place of M.^r John Ingram of Montego Bay and She was Cast away last August Gale, we have very lately rec.^d a Letter from M.^r Ingram in which he appears much dissatisfied, and requested a Ballance in our hands remitted to M.^r Thomas Buchannan of New York, we shall do so and let the

⁵⁹ A younger brother of the London merchant William Charles Lake, Richard Lake was a West Indian merchant and correspondent of the Blounts. Keith, *Blount Papers*, II, 227, n.3.

⁶⁰ From the Letter Book.